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H.B. 5062, An Act Concerning the Removal of Individuals from
the State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry
Judiciary Committee
March 3, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee,
thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs. The Alliance represents 23 YMCAs across the state of Connecticut.

I'm here today to oppose H.B. 5062, An Act Concerning the Removal of Individuals from the State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry.

The proposed bill would establish a procedure for individuals to remove their names from the state child abuse and neglect registry after five years have elapsed and upon the showing of good cause.

Some of the reasons a person's name is added to the child abuse and neglect registry include abuse or neglect involving the death of a child, serious physical injury or harm to a child, arrest for abuse or neglect of a child, and the sexual abuse of a child.

The bill includes a list of requirements for a person to have their name removed from the child abuse and neglect registry. One of the requirements is the person needs to obtain or retain employment that involves direct contact with children. The Commissioner of Children and Families is the only individual who makes a decision if the appeal is approved or rejected.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs strongly opposes this bill. Child predators look for opportunities where they can have access to children. Any person who is convicted of having inappropriate contact or conduct with a child should not be allowed to have contact with children in any setting.